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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates, ORE DATE: 13 December 1949

FROM : Chief, Publications Division, ORE

SUBJECT: Comments on Staff Study Titled, "A Concept of National Intelligence Production in the Far East"

1. Although I favor in general the proposal to draw up a statement of national intelligence objectives, I do not approve the statement under discussion. My objections concern both its substance and its scope.

a. Substance.

- (1) I find this statement too general to be accurately descriptive of the considerations relating to US security which are special to the Far East. To say it another way, one could make this statement apply equally well to any other part of the world by making only a few changes. It does not really describe the US security problem in the Far East.
- (2) I also find this statement too narrow, though general in its description of US security considerations in the Far East. It hangs everything on a US-Soviet struggle for control. Without ignoring the major potentialities of Soviet Communism in the Far East, one can point to the economic potentialities of Asia quite apart from the Soviet threat. In other words, the economic health of Far Eastern countries, individually and collectively, affects the health of the world economic system and thereby affects US economic health. Moreover, it is conceivable that political groupings could be formed in Asia which were non-Soviet and also non-US. Such groupings might be either favorable or inimical to US security, quite apart from their relationship to the US-Soviet struggle.

b. Scope.

- (1) I do not approve the regional limitations of this statement. A statement such as this one attempts to be, should, I believe, rest firmly within the context of a global statement concerning US intelligence objectives. Within the framework of such an over-all statement, regional statements could quite properly set forth the security

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considerations which are peculiar to the area in question.

- (2) The regional limitation on the scope of this statement, which I understand is to be sent forth to the NSC, commits ORE either to proceed along similar lines in all other geographic areas or else to set up a patchwork of dissimilar statements. I do not approve of either of these alternatives.
2. I therefore recommend that AD/ORE disapprove the staff study under discussion and lay on the preparation of a global statement of US intelligence objectives, within the framework of which separate regional statements can be made. I further recommend that only this full-length statement, containing both global and regional descriptions of US intelligence objectives, be sent forth for NSC consideration..



R. J. SMITH

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